

U.S. Congressman Mike Pence issued the following statement today regarding the release of Planned Parenthood Federation of America's 2008-2009 Annual Report. The report notes, among other things, that Planned Parenthood received \$363 million in government grants and contracts from 2008 to 2009.

“It is morally wrong to end an unborn human life by abortion. It is also morally wrong to take the taxpayer dollars of millions of pro-life Americans and use those funds to promote abortion.

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“Planned Parenthood’s own report shows that the largest abortion provider in America is being bankrolled by American taxpayers. With a nearly 10 percent unemployment rate, there is simply no reason during these tough economic times why taxpayers’ hard-earned money should fund the activities of abortion providers and equip them with the resources they need to end innocent human life.

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“The time has come to deny any and all federal funding to Planned Parenthood by passing the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act, which I intend to introduce again in the next Congress.”

Background:

The Title X Family Planning program was enacted in 1970 as Title X of the Public Health Service Act. Title X is the only federal grant program that provides individuals with comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services.

Congressman Pence introduced The Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act (H.R. 614), a bill prohibiting the distribution of Title X family planning money to entities that use abortion as a method of family planning. The bi-partisan bill has 103 co-sponsors.

Originally, family planning services were not allowed to include abortions and currently federal dollars are not used directly for abortions. However, over the years, the subsidy of abortion providers under the umbrella of family planning has been gradually accepted.

Current law prohibits the use of Title X family planning funds “in programs where abortion is a method of family planning;” and current regulations require some form of separation between federally-funded family planning services and abortions. However, the current regulations do not

contain a descriptive standard of what constitutes “separation.” They only require the level of separation to be more than “mere bookkeeping.”

When Title X money goes to clinics that provide both abortions and family planning services, even though the money cannot directly fund abortions, it is being used to offset operational costs with federal funds, freeing up money to promote and provide abortions.